RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 12*th March,* 2008/22 *Phalguna,* 1929 (*Saka*)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Gender based discrimination against SSC women officers in IAF

*181. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SSC women officers in IAF are facing gender based discrimination which is affecting their service terms and conditions, whereas the similarly placed male SSC officers are being considered for permanent commission;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) There is no discrimination between men and women with respect to the terms and conditions of service for SSC officers in IAF as these are same for men and women SSC officers. The women SSC officers are eligible for similar pay and post retirement benefits akin to their male SSC counterparts. At present, Permanent Commission is not being granted to any SSC officer, irrespective of gender.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 181.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, Question Nos. 181 and 188 are the same. Can we club them together?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not quite the same. Let them be taken up separately. Now, estion No. 181, please.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, my question relates to Short Service Commission, SSC, to officers in non-combat posts like accounts, logistics, procurement of material, etc. The Minister has said that there is no discrimination, between male and female SSC officers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since 1993, how many male SSC officers have been given permanent commission and how many female SSC officers have been given permanent commission.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the number of male SSC officers in the IAF, who were given permanent comission up to 2006 is 179. Subsequent to that, a view was taken, based on A.B. Singh Committee report that SSC officers will not be inducted into the permanent commission.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: How many female officers? Can you please inform?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: No female officers were inducted.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: 179 male SSC officers were given permanent commission and not a single female SSC officer was given permanent comission. It shows, therefore, that the answer of the Minister that there is no discrimination in the IAF against women is completely false and it is proved by your own statement. Since there is a clear blatent discrimination, and we would not like our defence services to be polluted by such gender discrimination, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since he has admitted that not a single woman SSC officer has been given permanent commission, whether you are prepared to undo the discrimination that the women have faced and give them permanent commission, as their male counterparts have been given.

Thank you, Mr. Antony, I saw your statement on March 8 and I was happy to see that.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, as my colleague explained, at the moment, in the IAF's SSC officers, both men and women are on equal terms. Both are not allowed now. In the past it was there but after the A.V. Singh Committee report in 2006, the Government took a view. Not only the A.V. Singh Committee report, there was also a study by the headquarters of IDS. Then, the Government took a decision in 2006 that there would be no permanent commission for SSC officers, either for men or for women. That is the rule now.

The problem is, in the services, the Government cannot impose its decision. We have to consult the service chiefs also. Unilaterally, the Government, whichever Government it is, does not take decisions. But, I understand the sentiments of our women because, we are passing through an era of women empowerment in every field. We know, the trend all over the world is also changing. I can assure the Members that the Government will re-examine the decision, once again. We will try our best to find a solution to the long-pending demand of the women. We will try our best.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, the hon. Minister for Defence is a very important Minister and very influential one. In spite of the lip service that we keep paying to the female gender and all the big things we say about them, Sir, the practical experience is that there is a hostile and venormous discrimination against women in every department of the Government. There is discrimination at every place whether it is recruitment or any thing else. Sir, as we all know, we are the biggest users of the Indian Airlines and Air India Planes. Sir, potbellied men with sloppy dresses go about in cabin crew but a female who is one ounce more than the prescribed weight is grounded. What else is this if not discrimination? Will the hon. Minister give an assurance to the house that women will not be treated as some kind of objects of sex or meant only to produce aesthetic enjoyment for others and you will employ them and continue to employ them with complete equality? Will you examine all the Departments of the Government and make an assurance to the House? ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I can speak for the Armed Forces and I can assure you of the highest degree of respect as far as women officers are concerned; and that will continue to be the ethos of the Armed Forces.

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when they recruited the Short Service Commission women whether it was written that they would not be given the Permanent Commission. Was this the condition while making them officers under the Short Service Commission? I want to know why they are not being taken as men are taken. If there is a condition I can understand that they were not taken. Secondly, because of the shortage of the officers in Air Force and in all the other services - and they have said

that there is a Committee which has recommended that they would not be given a Permanent Commission—are they going to relax it and going to make the Short Service Commission as Permanent Commission?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I have already assured the House when Brindaji asked her question. Even though under the present policy there is no Permanent Commission to the women, but as per the requests from various quarters mainly from women organisations and also Members of Parliament Unanimously, cutting across party lines, I assure the House that we will re-examine the case an we will try our best to find a solution.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. It is a general consensus of this House that though according to the law, as per the reply of the Minister and as per the presentation of the Minister, there is no discrimination, but the ground reality is that there is discrimination. That is how we look at it. In such a situation, what are all the measures that can be taken? How could you do that when in reality there is discrimination? Under the law, it may not be there.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, when the Short Service Commission was started, it was both for men and women and based on their ACRs, performance and based on the needs, the Armed Forces did induct a few of the men. Subsequently, in 2006, based on the recommendation of a Committee which was headed by the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff, a decision was taken that no Short Service Commission officers either men or women would be taken into the Services. So, subsequent to that there is no question of any discrimination

घुसपैठ के संभावित खतरे

*182. **डॉ॰ प्रभा ठाकुर:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत दो वर्षों के दौरान देश की विभिन्न सीमाओं पर सीमा पार के विदेशी घुसपैठियों द्वारा देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में की जा रही घुसपैठ के मामलों में कमी आई है;

(ख) पड़ोसी राज्यों से आने वाले ऐसे घुसपैठियों से किस-किस प्रकार के खतरे संभावित हैं;

(ग) सरकार ने ऐसी घुसपैठ पर रोक लगाने के लिए क्या उपाय किये हैं;

(घ) ये उपाय कितने कारगर सिद्ध हुए है; और

(ङ) तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं?

गृह मंत्री (श्री शिवराज वी. पाटिल): (क) से (ङ) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रखा जा रहा है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) विदेशी घुसपैठियों आदि की आशंका के बारे में उपलब्ध सूचना से पता चलता है कि भारत-पाकिस्तान और भारत-बांग्लादेश सीमाओं पर सीमा पार से होने वाली घुसपैठ में गिरावट आई है। सीमाओं पर विदेशियों द्वारा सीमा-पार से घुसपैठ किए जाने की कोई बड़ी घटना घटित नहीं हुई है। हालांकि देश में अवैध आप्रवासन के कई सामाजिक आर्थिक निहितार्थ हैं, परन्तु विदेशी घुसपैठियों से मुख्य खतरा उनका आतंकवादी/विध्वंसक गतिविधियों में संभावित संलिप्तता है।

(ग) से (ङ) सरकार ने विदेशी राष्ट्रिकों द्वारा सीमा-पार से घुसपैठ किए जाने को रोकने के लिए बहु-आयामी दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ गश्त लगा करके और निगरानी चौकियां स्थापित करके सीमा की